

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This Listing of Claims is to replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A respiratory mask, comprising: ~~with~~  
a mask body [(2)]; and  
~~an exhalation system, characterized in that the exhalation system comprises including~~  
a large number of membrane elements (8, 14, 15, 17, 20) which are disposed on the mask body [(2)] and through which ~~the~~ expired air can flow.
2. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that wherein~~ the membrane elements are designed as flow channels [(16)] delimited by membrane strips (14, 15).
3. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that wherein~~ the flow channels [(16)] are arranged in a matrix pattern on the mask body [(2)].
4. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that wherein~~ the membrane elements are designed as parallel membrane films [(17)] which are provided with openings [(18)].
5. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that wherein~~ the membrane films are connected to one another in the form of a multilayer woven fabric.

6. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the membrane elements [[(8)]] are designed in the form of bendable bars secured at one end.

7. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that the wherein the bendable bars include~~ securing positions [[(12)]] ~~lie lying in the an~~ overlap area of the membrane elements [[(8)]].

8. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in ~~one of claim[[s]] 1 through 7, characterized in that wherein~~ the membrane material is composed of a textile fabric or an elastomer.

9. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in ~~one of claim[[s]] 1-8, characterized in that wherein~~ the membrane material is selected from a group of materials which change their geometry as a result of electric fields.

10. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in ~~one of claim[[s]] 1 through 9, characterized in that wherein~~ the membrane material is selected from a group of materials which change their spring rigidity as a result of electric fields.

11. (Currently amended) The respiratory mask as claimed in claim 9-~~or 10, characterized in that wherein~~ the material is a PVDF film.

12 (Original) Use of a material which, as a result of electric fields, changes its geometry or spring rigidity in the region of the exhalation system of a protective respiratory mask as a flow resistance element for influencing the flow of expired air.